

Message Text

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51

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SUBJ: COLOMBIAN REACTION TO SECY'S UN SPEECH AND HIS INVESTITURE

REF BOGOTA 7300

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. COLOMBIAN REACTION TO THE SECY'S UN ADDRESS WAS LIMITED. ALTHOUGH DR KISSINGER'S NOMINATION SEVERAL WEEKS AGO RECEIVED HEAVY NEWS AND EDITORIAL COVERAGE (BOGOTA 7300), LOCAL INTEREST IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS SUBSEQUENTLY TURNED TO DEVELOPMENTS IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE.

2. THE SECY'S CONFIRMATION AND SWEARING IN DID, HOWEVER RECEIVE EDITORIAL ATTENTION FROM THE BOGOTA PRESS. LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE PAPERS PAID LAVISH TRIBUTE TO THE NEW SECY'S INTELLIGENCE, ASTUTENESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ALSO TO A NATION THAT COULD PLACE SUCH CONFIDENCE IN A NATURALIZED CITIZEN. CONSERVATIVE EL SIGLO SUGGESTED ON SEPT 25 THAT KISSINGER'S TENURE WOULD

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BRING BETTER DAYS FOR US LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. LIBERAL EL TIEMPO, IN AN EDITORIAL ON SEPT 26 REFLECTED LOCAL OPINION IN ITS DESCRIPTION OF THE SECY'S UN SPEECH AS UNEXCEPTIONABLE,

CONTAINING NO SURPRISES AND SIMILAR TO THE SPEECHES OF US PERMREPS SINCE AMB LODGE. EL TIEMPO NOTED THAT ADDRESSES OF AMB STEVENSON DID DIFFER SOMEWHAT, BUT ASCRIBED THE DIFFERENCE TO THE LATTER'S ELEGANT STYLE AND TO THE ERA IN WHICH HE HELD FORTH AT THE UN. EL TIEMPO TWICE NOTED, WITH EVIDENT REGRET, THE LACK OF THE UNEXPECTED IN THE SECY'S ADDRESS BUT ATTRIBUTED IT TO THE INSTITUTIONAL

LIMITATIONS OF THE UN ITSELF, RATHER THAN TO ANY LACK ON THE SPEAKER'S PART. THE EDITORIAL CHARACTERIZED THE LA REFS AS A CATALOGUE OF GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT LACKING "ANYTHING CONCRETE, CURRENT OR PRESSING." THE EDITORIALIST DID HOWEVER EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE TO COMBAT HUNGER. IN ITS SUMMARY EL TIEMPO DESCRIBED THE SPEECH AS CLEAR, ORDERED, DISCREET, SOMEWHAT REFLECTIVE OF A DIPLOMAT GIVEN EN TO BILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND TOUCHED BY "A CERTAIN NINETEENTH CENTURY ROMANTICISM."

3. COMMENT: WHAT THE PRESS AND INFORMED COLOMBIANS SEEMED TO BE SAYING IS THAT THEY WANTED MORE THAN JUST A GOOD SPEECH FROM SECY KISSINGER. AS THE EL SIGLO EDITORIALIST HAD IMPLIED ON SEPT 25 LATIN AMERICANS EXPECT BIG THINGS IN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS FROM THE NEW SECY. HAVING WATCHED AND CHRONICLED HIS ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PAST FOUR AND A HALF YEARS, COLOMBIANS ARE NOW HOPING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIP BREAK-THROUGHS THAT WOULD, IN EFFECT BE THE LA EQUIVALENT OF SALT AND THE REORDERING OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THE DISAPPOINTED REFS TO LACK OF SURPRISES MAY IN FACT INDICATE AN OPPORTUNITY ARISING FROM THE EXCEPTIONAL REGARD IN WHICH THE SECY IS HELD HERE TO ENLIST COLOMBIAN SUPPORT IN SUCH INITIATIVES AS THE U S MAY WISH TO TAKE IN REGARD TO ITS RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE. WHITE

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